

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

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IO-13 FBO-02 SCS-03 MCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 OC-06

OPR-02 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SY-05 /098 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2580

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0651

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET US

SUBJ: REPRESENTATION ON ANTI-US ACTIONS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 0536, STATE 021947, STATE 023276

1. DURING FEB. 3 CALL ON ACTING FONMIN GETACHEW KIBRET, (JUST BEFORE OUTBREAK OF EVENTS AT PALACE) I RAISED PROBLEM OF ANTI-US OVERTONES TO RECENT EVENTS IN ADDIS ABABA, INDICATING THAT THIS WAS BEING DONE UNDER INSTRUCTION. I SAID WE WERE FRANKLY DEEPLY DISTURBED AT RECENT EVENTS.. IN PAST FEW DAYS WE HAD EXPERIENCED TWO ATTACKS ON USG INSTALLATIONS IN ADDIS BY ELEMENTS UNKNOWN TO US, BUT WITH OBVIOUS HOSTILE INTENT. ON FEB. 1 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL RECEIVED THREATENING LETTER, ORIGINAL OF WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO MOFA.. AT SAME TIME, WE HAD SEEN MAMMOTH RALLY IN SUPPORT OF EPMG, WHICH WE MUST ASSUME WAS ORGANIZED WITH EPMG APPROVAL, AT WHICH ANY NUMBER OF ANTI-CIA, ANTI-AMERICAN PLACARDS LINKING US WITH ELEMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO EPMG WERE DISPLAYED. NUMBER OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS WERE MADE IN SIMILAR VEIN, INCLUDING ONE FROM POMOA MEMBER FLATLY STATING THAT "ARCH ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD IN OUR ERA, US IMPERIALISM, HAS NOT REACHED THE STAGE OF CONCEDED DEFEAT.... THE BROAD MASSES OF ETHIOPIAN SHOULD PROPERLY UNDERSTAND THAT

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TODAY IT IS IMPERIALISM WHICH IS ORGANIZING AND UNITING INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ENEMIES AND SENDING THEM TO FIGHT OUR REVOLUTION." (A STATEMENT I HAD PROVIDED MOFA DIRECTOR AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIVISION ON JAN. 31). SAME SPEAKER WAS QUOTED IN ANHARIC PRESS AS STATING THAT "IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME THE OFFSPRING OF THE FORMER NOBILITY HAVE KILLED MORE THAN TEN POLITBURO MEMBERS WITH CIA MONEY AND WEAPONS." MOREOVER, KEBLE ASSOCIATION SPOKESMAN

LISTED AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND ITS INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AS SOME OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ENEMIES OF ETHIOPIA, ALONG WITH EDU, EPRP, AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

2. I CONTINUED THAT SINCE THESE SIGNS AND STATEMENTS HAD AGAIN APPEARED AT PRO-GOVERNEMENT RALLY IN SUCH PROFUSION, WE COULD NOT HELP BUT SPECULATE THAT THOSE WHO PREPARED THEM TOOK THEIR CUE FROM GOVERNMENT EITHER EXPLICITLY OR IMPLICITLY. WE MUST ASSUME IN ANY CASE THAT SENTIMENTS THEY EXPRESSED WERE WIDESPREAD AMONG ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE. WHILE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECHES MADE NO REFERENCE TO US, WE HAD HEARD INDIRECTLY THAT SOME OTHER PMAC MEMBERS HAD NOT HESITATED TO CITE US AND CIA AS ENEMIES OF REVOLUTION, AND THIS UNDOUBTEDLY ENCOURAGED UNFRIENDLY SLOGANEERS. I SAID WE WERE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY IMPLICATIONS OF US COLUSSION WITH EPRP AND NOW EDU, SINCE EPMG FORCES WERE COMBATTING THOSE MOVEMENTS AS WELL AS ERITREAN INSURGENTS WITH AMERICAN-SUPPLIED WEAPONS. INDEED, WE HAD JUST RECEIVED REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS.

3. GIVEN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I SAID, MY GOVERNMENT WONDERED WHAT WE ARE TO UNDERSTAND. ON ONE HAND, WE HAD BEEN ASSURED MANY TIMES OF EPMG DESIRE TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH US. YET ON THE OTHER, WE SAW MANY EVIDENCES OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT AMONG IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF ETHIOPIAN SOCIETY AT LARGE PRO-GOVERNEMENT RALLY, AND OUR INSTALLATIONS WERE BEING ATTACKED PRESUMABLY BY VERY PEOPLE WE ARE ACCUSED OF SUPPORTING.

4. I CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING GREAT CONCERN, AS I HAD DONE ON CONFIDENTIAL

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PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, ABOUT SECURITY OF ALL AMERICANS IN ETHIOPIA AS RESULT OF RECENT ACTIVITY. THUS FAR WE HAD BEEN FORTUNATE, AND TWO ATTACKS CAUSED ONLY PROPERTY DAMAGE. I FEARED, HOWEVER, THAT SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED AT JAN. 30 RALLY WOULD BUILD UP, AND THAT PEOPLE WOULD INCREASINGLY COME TO BELIEVE THAT AMERICANS WERE INDEED SUSPECT, WITH RESULT THAT THEY WOULD BEGIN TO TAKE MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS. THERE HAD ALREADY BEEN SOME INSTANCES WHERE ETHIOPIANS HAD REFUSED TO ASSOCIATE WITH US, APPARENTLY SOLELY BECAUSE WE WERE AMERICANS. I WAS THEREFORE ASKING HIM AND EPMG TO CONSIDER STRONGLY WHAT STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM.

5. GETACHEW EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S REGRET THAT TWO ATTACKS HAD OCCURRED AGAINST US INSTALLATIONS. HE ASSURED ME THAT EPMG HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN EITHER INCIDENT NOR, HE PRESUMED, DID WE HAVE ANY GROUND TO BELIEVE THAT EPMG WAS INVOLVED IN THREATENING LETTER. STATEMENTS BY PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTE CONTAINED NO INSINUATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST EITHER US OR CIA. URBAN DWELLERS ASSOCIATION AND POMOA WERE

ESSENTIALLY AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZATIONS. THEIR REPRESENTATIVES' SPEECHES WERE NOT CLEARED IN ADVANCE BY GOVERNMENT AND DID NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT GOVERNMENT POINTS OF VIEW. GETACHEW ASSURED ME THAT EPMG HAD EVERY DESIRE TO CONTINUE ITS GOOD RELATIONS WITH US. HE SAID HE WOULD BRING MY REPRESENTATION TO PMAC ATTENTION, BUT THAT I SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT ATTACKS AGAINST CIA WERE NOT PECULIAR TO ETHIOPIA, BUT WERE FREQUENT PHENOMENA IN US AS WELL, AND THUS SHOULD NOT GENERATE UNDUE EXCITEMENT.

6. I POINTED OUT THAT ACCUSATIONS IN PRESENT INSTANCE WERE DIFFERENT IN THAT THEY LINKED US AND CIA DIRECTLY WITH ORGANIZATIONS HOSTILE TO EPMG. PROLIFERATION OF ANTI-US SIGNS AT SUNDAY RALLY, RENEWED ANTI-CIA STATEMENT AT DEMONSTRATION YESTERDAY IN MEKELE, AND ATTACKS ON US BUILDINGS INDICATED THAT ANTI-US SENTIMENT EXISTS AND MAY EVEN BE WIDE-SPREAD, WHICH WAS REASON WHY WE HOPED EPMG WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER AND SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE.

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7. GETACHEW INDICATED HE PERSONALLY HAD TALKED TO POLICE ABOUT SECURITY FOR US BUILDINGS AND HAD BEEN ASSURED POLICE WERE WORKING ON IT AND HOPEFULLY WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE AROUND-THE CLOCK PROTECTION. I RESPONDED THAT THIS NEWS WAS REASSURING SINCE PROTECTION TO DATE HAD BEEN ONLY SPORADIC. HE CONCLUDED BY ASSURING ME ONCE AGAIN THAT HE WOULD CONVEY MY CONCERN TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. THROUGHOUT MY PRESENTATION HE INDICATED COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT I WAS SAYING AND DID NOT DWELL LONG ON THE STANDARD REPLY ABOUT ANTI-CIA SENTIMENT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

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